## AMENDMENTS

### In the Claims

Please cancel claims 5-6, 9-14, 24-25, 28-37, 39, and 45-52 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1-4, 7, 15-17, 20-23, 26, 38, and 40-43 as shown herein.

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 15-23, 26-27, 38, and 40-44 are pending and are listed following:

1. **(currently amended)** A network system, comprising:

a network server configured to maintain network access information corresponding to users authorized to access the network system;

a domain controller remotely located from the network server at a remote network site and communicatively linked with the network server, the domain controller configured to ~~cache the network access information~~ locally administrate access to the network system; ~~and~~

the domain controller further configured to:

track individual users that request access to the network system ~~from~~ via the domain controller at the remote network site;

receive a first network access request from a user and validate the first network access request with the network access information maintained at the network server;

cache the network access information; and

receive a second network access request from the user and validate the second network access request with the network access information cached at the domain controller.

**2. (currently amended)** A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the domain controller is further configured to cache the network access information only for the individual users that request access to the network system ~~from~~ via the domain controller at the remote network site.

**3. (currently amended)** A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the domain controller is further configured to update the network access information at the domain controller for the individual users that request access to the network system ~~from~~ via the domain controller at the remote network site.

**4. (currently amended)** A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the domain controller is further configured to update the network access information at the domain controller for the individual users that request access to the network system ~~from~~ via the domain controller at the remote network site within a defined time interval.

**5-6. canceled**

7. **(currently amended)** A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein~~: the domain controller is further configured to receive a network access request from a user and validate the network access request with the network access information maintained in the network server before the domain controller caches the network access information; and~~ the domain controller is further configured to ~~receive a second network access request from the user and~~ validate the second network access request with the network access information cached at the domain controller if the second network access request is within a defined time interval.

8. **(original)** A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the network access information comprises identifiers to indicate network group memberships that an individual user is a member of in the network system; and

the domain controller is further configured to maintain user objects associated with the individual users that request access to the network system from the domain controller, and cache the identifiers to the user objects.

**9-14. canceled**

15. **(currently amended)** A network, comprising:

a global information server configured to maintain network information corresponding to users of the network;

a remote server communicatively linked with the global information server, the remote server configured to:

receive a first network access request from a user and validate the first network access request with the network information maintained at the global information server;

cache the network information;

receive a second network access request from the user and validate the second network access request with the network information cached at the remote server;

track individual users that request access to the network from the remote server; and

update the network information cached at the remote server for the individual users that access the network from the remote server.

16. **(currently amended)** A network as recited in claim 15, wherein the remote server is further configured to update the network information cached at the remote server for the individual users that access the network from the remote server within a defined time interval.

17. **(currently amended)** A network as recited in claim 15, wherein the remote server is further configured to ~~receive a user request to access the network and~~ validate the second network access ~~user~~ request with the network information cached at the remote server if the user accessed the network from the remote server within a defined time interval.

18. **(original)** A network as recited in claim 15, wherein the remote server is further configured to track individual users that request access to the network information cached at the remote server.

19. **(original)** A network as recited in claim 15, wherein the remote server is further configured to receive a user request to access the network information cached at the remote server and validate the user request if the user accessed the network from the remote server within a defined time interval.

**20. (currently amended)** A method, comprising:

maintaining~~, at a first site,~~ network access information at a first network site, the network access information identifying ~~that identifies~~ users authorized to access a network;

validating a first network access request from a user at a second network site with the network access information maintained at the first network site;

caching the network access information at ~~a~~ the second network site; ~~and~~

validating a second network access request from the user at the second network site with the network access information cached at the second network site; and

tracking individual user requests to access the network from the second network site.

**21. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 20, wherein said caching comprises storing the network access information at the second network site only for the individual users that request access to the network from the second network site.

**22. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising updating the network access information at the second network site for the individual users that periodically request access to the network from the second network site.

**23. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising updating the network access information at the second network site for the individual users that request access to the network from the second network site within a defined time interval.

**24-25. canceled**

**26. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 20, ~~further comprising:~~

~~validating a network access request from a user at the second site with the network access information maintained at the first site, wherein said validating occurs before said caching; and~~

~~validating a second network access request from the user at the second site,~~ wherein said validating the second network access request comprises validating the second network access request with the network access information cached at the second network site if the second network access request is within a defined time interval.

**27. (original)** A computer-readable medium comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to perform the method of claim 20.

**28-37. canceled**

**38. (currently amended)** A method, comprising:

maintaining~~, at a network global information server,~~ network information at a global information server, the network information corresponding to users of the network;

receiving a first network access request from a user at a remote server communicatively linked with the global information server;

validating the first network access request at the remote server with the network information maintained at the global information server;

caching the network information at ~~a~~ the remote server;

receiving a second network access request from the user at the remote server;

validating the second network access request at the remote server with the network information cached at the remote server;

tracking users that request access to the network via the remote server; and

updating the network information cached at the remote server with the network information maintained at the global information server for users authorized to access the network from the remote server, and that accessed the remote server within a defined time interval.

**39. canceled**

**40. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 38, ~~further comprising:~~

~~receiving a user request to access the network; and~~ wherein said validating the second network access request comprises validating the ~~user~~ second network access request with the network information cached at the remote server if the second network access request is received within a defined time interval.

**41. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 38, further comprising:

tracking users that access the ~~cached~~ network information cached at the remote server; and

updating the network information cached at the remote server with the network information maintained at the global information server for users authorized to access the network information from the remote server, and that accessed the network information cached at the remote server within a defined time interval.

**42. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 38, further comprising:

receiving a user request to access the network information cached at the remote server; and

validating the user request at the remote server.

43. **(currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 38, further comprising:

receiving a user request to access the network information cached at the remote server; and

validating the user request at the remote server if the user request is received within a defined time interval.

44. **(original)** A computer-readable medium comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to perform the method of claim 38.

**45-52. canceled**